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Control: 10226
Rec'd: July 17, 1961
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Action

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No Action
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FROM: Moscow

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 166, July 17, 3 p.m.

NIACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 186, INFORMATION LONDON 22, PARIS 27, BONN 17

I delivered our reply to Soviet aide memoire on German question to Gromyko at 2:30 pm. After glancing through it he said he did not wish to make any particular comment until note had been studied. In brief discussion that followed I said it was clear we were heading into very difficult and dangerous situation. Grokyko agreed but said this was of wests making. I disagreed pointing out it was Soviet Union that was proposing change present situation. When he said only change they proposed was to conclude peace treaty and draw line under last war I pointed out they had accompanied their statement of intention to conclude separate treaty with declaration this would end our rights in Berlin which we could only consider as threat to our vital interests. Gromyko said it suited west and NATO particularly to heat up situation. He said Soviet Union thought this question should be settled between us including other interested powers. In reply I drew his attention to fact that while our note was firm statement of our position it did not slam door on discussion of problem. I told Gromyko note would be published some time Tuesday.

THOMPSON

DT

Note: Mr. Vigderman's office (GER) notified. 12:35 p.m. MG

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO	EUR/GER	ACTION TAKEN	None
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	R. Jutt	DATE OF ACTION	
		DIRECTIONS TO RM/R	File